

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6889

BILL NUMBER: HB 1121

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 13, 2008

BILL AMENDED: Feb 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bischoff

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Jackman

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill does the following.

Board of Trustees for the Division of State Museums and Historic Sites. This bill changes the membership of the board.

Hungarian Partridge. The bill removes the Hungarian partridge from the list of game birds that may be hunted after obtaining a game bird habitat restoration stamp.

Rifles The bill allows rifles to be used with certain yearly deer hunting licenses.

Turkeys. It removes the condition that a fall turkey hunting season must be established before a license to take an extra turkey is issued.

Duplicate License. It allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a duplicate license to any person who has lost a license. (Current law allows only residents to obtain a duplicate license.)

State Museum. The bill provides that the DNR may contract with the museum foundation or a similar organization interested in promoting the state museum for administration of the state museum, the museum development fund, and the historic sites.

Sportsmen's Benevolence Account. The bill creates the account within the revolving fund for the Fish and Wildlife Division to be used to encourage citizen participation in feeding the state's hungry through donations of lawfully hunted wild game.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Board of Trustees for the Division of State Museums and Historic Sites.* This provision should have no impact because it reflects a name change of the group responsible for one appointment and removes one defunct group from having an appointment.

Hungarian Partridge. The bird is removed from the list of “game birds” to reflect its endangered status. This provision will have minimal administrative impact.

Rifles. The bill adds rifles to the list of approved firearms for deer hunting. This provision will have no impact because it reflects administrative changes.

Turkeys. This provision updates the code to reflect that the DNR has established a fall turkey season.

State Museum. The bill provides that the DNR may contract with the museum foundation or a similar organization interested in promoting the state museum for administration of the state museum, the Museum Development Fund, and the historic sites. This provision conforms with current practice.

(Revised) *Sportsmen's Benevolence Account.* The bill creates the Sportsmen's Benevolence Account within the revolving fund for the Fish and Wildlife Division to be used to encourage citizen participation in feeding the state's hungry through donations of lawfully hunted wild game. The DNR anticipates that it would spend about \$25,000 to promote the program. Expenses of administering the account must be paid from money in the account. The Division of Law Enforcement must

- (1) conduct a publicity campaign relating to feeding the state's hungry through donations of wild game;
- (2) coordinate with nonprofit entities and other entities created with goals of feeding the state's hungry; and
- (3) engage in any other activities to further the goals of the program.

The \$25,000 that is anticipated for promoting the program would come from the budget of the Division of Law Enforcement. The DNR hopes to reimburse the division with money from the fund once money has accumulated in the fund.

(Revised) *Revolving Loan Provision.* Under IC 14-9-5, all money accruing to the use of a DNR division, other than a regular or specific appropriation, is considered to constitute a revolving fund for the use of the division. Currently, money in a fund does not revert to the state General Fund at the end of a state fiscal year until the fund contains \$50,000. Any amount greater than \$50,000 reverts to the state General Fund at the end of each state fiscal year. The bill eliminates the provision that provides that any amount greater than \$50,000 reverts to the state General Fund. No money has been reverted in the past two years.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Duplicate License.* Allowing nonresidents to purchase duplicate licenses may result in a minimal increase in license fee collections. License fee revenue is deposited in the Fish & Wildlife Fund, which is used to finance the operations of the DNR Divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Law Enforcement.

The DNR’s automated licensing system that operates in real time can easily verify whether a license has been purchased previously. In the past, a paper system did not provide a method to easily verify whether an initial license had been purchased.

Under existing law, nonresidents who lose their licenses must purchase another license. Many nonresidents indicate that they will not buy a second \$140 deer, \$130 turkey, \$80 hunting, or \$35 fishing license at full cost once they lose their initial license. Surrounding states provide nonresidents a low-priced duplicate license.

(Revised) *Sportsmen's Benevolence Account*. The account consists of

- (1) gifts;
- (2) donations; and
- (3) proceeds derived from marketing by the Division of Law Enforcement of goods related to the feeding of the state's hungry through donations of wild game.

The treasurer of state must invest money in the account not currently needed to meet the obligations of the account in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments must be deposited in the account. The amount of money that will be generated for the account is indeterminable.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR

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